

Franklin County Commissioners' General Session Agenda for 02/26/13

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners holds its General Session meetings every Tuesday at 9:00am in the Franklin County Government Center at 373 South High Street, 26th Floor. Highlighted below are some of the resolutions/contracts scheduled for consideration at the upcoming meeting:

Helping Franklin County Seniors live Healthier, Longer, and More Independent in their Own Homes

As a result of voter approval of the Senior Options Levy last Fall -- allowing Franklin County's Office on Aging to serve an increasing population of older Franklin County residents -- County Commissioners will be asked on Tuesday to approve more than \$6.9 million in new and continuing partnerships with more than 40 local agencies and non-profit service providers who work with the area's senior citizens. Approximately 6,000 older adults receive Senior Options services monthly -- more than half of whom are over 75 years of age. This wide range of community-based services allows older residents to live independently in their own homes. Among the many partnerships: the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging, which provides needed case management services; innovative health promotion and wellness services, including a nutrition-based partnership with LifeCare Alliance to provide group transportation to dining centers and access to fresh fruits and vegetables through a Farmers Market program; caregiver support services with help from the Alzheimer's Association Central Ohio chapter; refugee assistance and intergenerational collaboration; and community services such as bill paying assistance and help in accessing Medicaid benefits. The latest Central Ohio census figures show that the age group between 50 and 69 years old has grown by more than 31 percent over the last decade.

Investing in Affordable Housing and Emergency Shelter for Franklin County Families

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners has had a long-standing partnership with the Affordable Housing Trust and the Community Shelter Board to share the County's collections of real estate conveyance fees to create more affordable homeownerships, rental housing, and emergency shelter for at-risk families. On Tuesday, Commissioners will be asked to commit more than \$5 million to this year's work by both agencies. Improvements in the local housing market have allowed the County to continue this important partnership, despite state cuts to local government funding. With this investment, the Affordable Housing Trust aims to stimulate the development of affordable apartments and homes in older, overlooked areas of Columbus and near the county's employment centers. The Community Shelter Board will serve nearly 9,000 individuals -- including a growing number of women and children -- with emergency shelter and housing services.

Improving Efforts to Reduce Unwanted Animal Population as part of World Spay Day

Also on Tuesday, Commissioners are expected to approve a new contract with Shelter Outreach Services of Ohio to perform all spay and neuter surgeries for dogs at the Franklin County Dog Shelter and Adoption Center. The new contract will provide improved efficiency for the shelter and reduced stress for the dogs. Tuesday, February 26, is also nationally recognized as 'World Spay Day' by the Humane Society of the United States. In 2012, more than 2,500 dogs were spayed (females) or neutered (males) at the shelter prior to being put up for adoption as part of the Franklin County's continuing commitment to reducing the population of unwanted animals.

Keeping a Commitment to Support the Columbus Symphony

As part of a 2010 community-wide effort to stabilize the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, the Franklin County Commissioners pledged three years of financial support to leverage significant philanthropic support from local businesses and other public-sector partners. On Tuesday, Commissioners will vote on the final year of that support, investing \$150,000 into the Symphony and the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA), which oversees the Symphony's finance, accounting, marketing, and other operational functions. If approved, this will bring the County's investment total to \$525,000, which has allowed the Symphony to reach a growing and diverse audience with great music, touching more than a

quarter of a million people in Central Ohio through concerts, radio broadcasts, and special programming. Now in its historic 62nd season, the Symphony influences Franklin County's standing among other major metropolitan regions and contributes to a quality of life valued by residents and companies alike.

Designating Franklin County as an Alternative Energy Zone

Also at Tuesday's meeting, County Commissioners will consider a 'green' first: designating the County as an Alternative Energy Zone. Under relatively new provisions in the Ohio Revised Code, counties can create these alternative energy zones as a way to develop and foster renewable energy and energy-efficiency efforts. Among the benefits for private companies in these alternative energy zones are tax exemptions and reductions for constructing, operating and maintaining renewable energy systems -- such as solar power-generating projects. If Commissioners approve the new alternative energy zone designation, the City of Columbus is set to partner with locally-based Tipping Point Energy to install and operate a solar array on the roof of the city's Fleet Management Building. In addition to the environmental benefits of harnessing alternative energy, this designation is expected to add an economic boost to private-sector 'green job' creation. Tipping Point Energy, for example, has been nationally recognized for its Solar by Soldiers initiative to give returning military personnel new jobs in the growing alternative energy industry.

For the full General Session Agenda, visit:

<http://crms.franklincountyohio.gov/RMSWeb/pdfs/Agendas/CurrentAgenda.pdf>

Commissioners' Weekly Agenda 02/23/13 to 03/01/13

Integrated Risk Management Decision Maker Workshop (Tuesday - 1:30pm)

On Tuesday afternoon, all three County Commissioners will take part in the Integrated Risk Management Decision Maker Workshop provided by Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.). The workshop will provide valuable insight on how jurisdictions across Central Ohio can work together to prepare for emergency situations. Essential information will be shared to develop community-wide approaches in preventing, responding, and recovering from natural and man-made disasters.

Dress for Success Columbus 6th Anniversary Open House (Tuesday - 5:00pm)

Commissioner Marilyn Brown will join in the celebration of six years of empowering women through the work of Dress for Success Columbus. This unique program promotes the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life. Each Dress for Success client receives one suit when she has a job interview and can return for a second suit or separates when she finds work. The evening celebration is at Dress for Success Columbus' location at 1204 North High Street.

Operation Feed Day (Friday - 10:00am)

With the 2013 Operation Feed Campaign just around the corner, Commissioner John O'Grady will help launch the drive by participating in the second annual Operation Feed Day on Friday. The Commissioner will be volunteering at the Mid-Ohio Foodbank (3960 Brookham Drive, Grove City) alongside other local company representatives, showing the power of the community working together for a common cause. In 2012, the Mid-Ohio Foodbank distributed more than 45.7 million pounds of food, half of which was fresh food: fruits, vegetables, bread, eggs, dairy products and meat and goods.

For the Weekly Agenda of Official Commissioner Events, visit:

<http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/commissioners/public-meetings/>